

morning a most serious problem now confronted by the 22 nations and territories of the Pacific Region—the Government of France plans to explode 8 more nuclear bombs in about 8 weeks, each 10 times more powerful than the atomic bomb dropped on the city of Hiroshima, Japan.

Mr. Speaker, the millions of men, women, and children who live in the Pacific are sick and tired of this region being used as a testing ground for nuclear explosions. And it makes me sad to see the President of France, charging like a bulldozer—totally disregarding the environmental concerns of the millions of people living in the Pacific—and I ask the American people and my colleagues to send a strong message to the French Government by not buying French goods and products as a symbolic gesture to get President Chirac off his high horse, and stop this madness by canceling the nuclear explosions—and prove to the world what real leadership is all about. I know the people of the Pacific will be grateful.

Mr. Speaker, 70 percent of the people of France do not want their government to conduct nuclear explosions in French Polynesia. The countries of the Pacific, Asia, and Europe don't support it.

What madness, Mr. Speaker. What madness.

[From the Washington Post, July 12, 1995]

WHY NOT ATOM TESTS IN FRANCE

France's unwise decision to resume nuclear testing was an invitation to the kind of protests and denunciations being generated by Greenpeace's skillful demonstration of political theater. But even before Greenpeace set sail for the test site, several Pacific countries had vehemently objected to France's intention of carrying out the explosions at a Pacific atoll. The most cutting comment came from Japan's prime minister, Tomiichi Murayama. At a recent meeting in Cannes the newly installed president of France, Jacques Chirac, confidently explained to him that the tests will be entirely safe. If they are so safe, Mr. Murayama replied, why doesn't Mr. Chirac hold them in France?

The dangers of these tests to France are, in fact, substantial. The chances of physical damage and the release of radioactivity to the atmosphere are very low. But the symbolism of a European country holding its tests on the other side of the earth, in a vestige of its former colonial empire, is proving immensely damaging to France's standing among its friends in Asia.

France says that it needs to carry out the tests to ensure the reliability of its nuclear weapons. Those weapons, like most of the American nuclear armory, were developed to counter a threat from a power that has collapsed. The great threat now, to France and the rest of the world, is the possibility of nuclear bombs in the hands of reckless and aggressive governments elsewhere. North Korea, Iraq and Iran head the list of possibilities. The tests will strengthen France's international prestige, in the view of many French politicians, by reminding others that it possesses these weapons. But in less stable and non-democratic countries, there are many dictators, juntas and nationalist fanatics who similarly aspire to improve their countries' standing in the world.

The international effort to discourage the spread of nuclear weapons is a fragile enterprise, depending mainly on trust and good-

will. But over the past half-century, the effort has been remarkably and unexpectedly successful. It depends on a bargain in which the nuclear powers agree to move toward nuclear disarmament at some indefinite point in the future, and in the meantime to avoid flaunting these portentous weapons or to use them merely for displays of one-upmanship. That's the understanding that France is now undermining. The harassment by Greenpeace is the least of the costs that these misguided tests will exact.

[From the Washington Post, July 11, 1995]

FRANCE TO CONTINUE NUCLEAR COUNTDOWN

(By Christopher Burns)

PARIS, July 10.—France insisted today that it will go ahead with nuclear-weapons tests in the South Pacific following its seizure of an environmental protest ship in the area and despite protests from demonstrators and governments around the world.

French commandos used tear gas Sunday to board and take command of the Rainbow Warrior II, flagship of the environmental protection organization Greenpeace—an action the group called "an outrage against peaceful protest and world opinion."

The timing of the boarding—which took place in French waters near Mururoa atoll, site of the planned nuclear tests—was especially sensitive because it was just 10 years ago that French agents blew up the original Rainbow Warrior in New Zealand, killing one person aboard.

Today, as French warships escorted the 180-foot vessel away from Mururoa, two Greenpeace members using a motorized dinghy evaded French patrols and scaled a drilling rig at the test site to protest the eight planned nuclear blasts, but security forces removed them within 20 minutes. The rig is used to bore test shafts into the ocean bed below the atoll.

Meanwhile, in London, Bonn, Hong Kong and other cities, anti-nuclear protesters carried effigies of French President Jacques Chirac, chained themselves to the gates of French diplomatic compounds or held rallies to express their anger over the tests, scheduled to begin in September. In Washington, Greenpeace activists chained themselves to the gates of the French ambassador's residence, unfurled banners and shouted slogans denouncing the tests.

But French officials shrugged off the outcry, declaring that its seizure of the Greenpeace ship was justified. "Faced with operations that violate the law, we do what is needed to ensure that the law is respected, and we will continue to do so," Prime Minister Alain Juppe said.

In Auckland, Greenpeace's New Zealand campaign director said the Rainbow Warrior II had planned to protest by sailing peacefully into the 12-mile exclusion zone around the atoll. But the French high commissioner in French Polynesia, Paul Ronciere, justifying seizure of the vessel, said the crew wanted to "run the ship aground on a reef or on a beach" to stymie French test plans.

Juppe added in his statement that France will take whatever measures are needed to ensure that its territorial waters are respected. He said Chirac's pledge to conduct the tests as a means of maintaining France's nuclear capability would be carried out "because it is in the higher interest of the country." France says that when the tests are completed it will be ready to sign a multinational test ban treaty now being negotiated.

French leftists and environmentalists criticized Chirac's new conservative government over the tests, although there were no major protests in Paris. Indeed, the French public seems tacitly to support the government's nuclear policies.

But France came under increasing criticism today from many of its allies, most of whom have opposed the tests.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said: "As we stated previously, we regret very much the French decision to resume nuclear testing, and we continue to urge all nuclear power's including France, to join in a global moratorium as we work to complete the comprehensive test ban treaty at the earliest possible time."

Australia, a major critic of the tests, has signaled that it will seek Japanese support in pressuring Paris to call them off. On the seizure of the Rainbow Warrior II, Deputy Prime Minister Kim Beazley called the French action "a disproportionate response," as assessment echoed by New Zealand Prime Minister Jim Bolger, who said the French had gone "over the top."

Chirac is scheduled to meet German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in Strasbourg, France, on Tuesday and officials in Bonn said the chancellor would bring up the issue of the tests "and their effect on public debate in Germany." A recent poll showed that 95 percent of Germans oppose the tests.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members are recognized for 5 minutes each.

□ 2300

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. GOSS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. TOWNS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. TOWNS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. EHRLICH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. EHRLICH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. FORD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. FORD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

INTRODUCTION OF THE TERM LIMITS ACT OF 1995

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. HOEKSTRA] is recognized for 5 minutes.